



**INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA  
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER**

# **Press Release**

(Issued by the Registrar)

**GRITAKUMAR E. CHITTY, REGISTRAR OF THE TRIBUNAL,  
ENDS HIS TERM OF OFFICE ON 30 JUNE 2001**

Gritakumar E. Chitty, Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, by a letter dated 27 April 2001 addressed to Judge P. Chandrasekhara Rao, President of the Tribunal, informed him that at the end of his period of secondment from the United Nations to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on 30 June 2001 he intended to end his term of office with the Tribunal. He stated that it was an honour and a privilege to serve as the first Registrar of the Tribunal.



The President of the Tribunal informed the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 14 May 2001 of the decision of the Registrar. While addressing the Meeting of States Parties, the President of the

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**For information media - not an official record - also available at <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/>**

Tribunal stated: "Mr. Chitty has served the Tribunal in different capacities, first as an officer appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for making preparations for the establishment of the Tribunal, then as Director-in-Charge of the Registry of the Tribunal and finally as the first Registrar of the Tribunal. He has played an important role in the establishment of the Registry, negotiations on relations between the Tribunal and the host country and the setting up of necessary infrastructures. He will carry the Tribunal's best wishes in his future endeavours".

Mr. Chitty was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June 1939. He was called to the bar in May 1968 and practised in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka from 1968 to 1975. He joined the United Nations in 1975. In more than 20 years of experience in the United Nations Secretariat, Mr. Chitty was the officer responsible for the subject of the settlement of dispute concerning the law of the sea. Further information may be found in Press Release No.3 of the Tribunal.

The Tribunal is taking steps to elect a new Registrar as early as possible. Meanwhile, with effect from 1 July 2001, the Deputy Registrar, Mr. Philippe Gautier, will act as Registrar.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-227/228, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; or United Nations DC-1, suite 1140, New York, NY 10017, Tel.: (1) (212) 963-6480, Fax: (1) (212) 963-0908, E-mail: [press@itlos.org](mailto:press@itlos.org)

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